



3712

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 3712 Customer No.: 035811
Examiner : Jamila O. Williams
Serial No. : 09/711,194
Filed : November 13, 2000 Docket No.: 1391-CIP-00
Inventors : Casey William Norman
: Torquil Patrick Alexander Norman
Title : DOLL'S CLOTHING Confirmation No.: 6427
: AND PLAY SET Dated: November 17, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8

For

Postcard

Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119
Certified Copy of United Kingdom No. 9800856.8

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Name of Applicant, Assignee, Applicant's Attorney
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Piper Rudnick LLP
Customer No. 035811

By: _____ 

Date: 17 NOV 2003

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CLAIM FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

We submit herewith the certified copy of United Kingdom Patent Application No. 9800856.8, filed January 15, 1998, the priority is hereby claimed.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Daniel Christenbury
Reg. No. 31,750
Attorney for Applicants

TDC:cc
(215) 656-3300

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09/11/1994



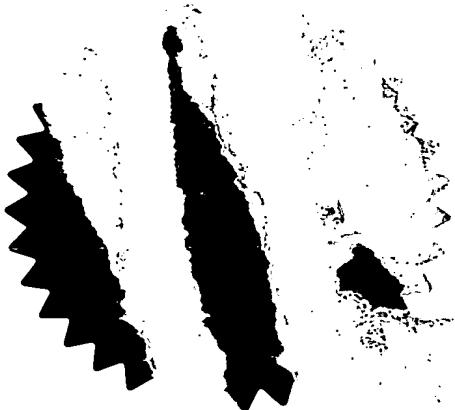
The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein together with the Statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a Patent (Form 7/77), which was subsequently filed.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

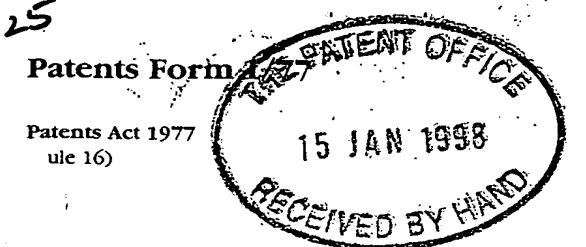
Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.



Signed *Am Stevens*.

Dated 15 October 2003

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The
Patent
Office

1/77

16 JAN 1998 E331017-6 D02224
P01/7700 25.00 - 930456.8

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

WBH

8661 NW 51

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

15 JAN 1998

9800856.8

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

GENIE TOYS PLC
10 MANDEVILLE COURTYARD,
142 BATTERSEA PARK ROAD,
LONDON SW11 4NB

725 616 7001

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

UNITED KINGDOM

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

DOLL'S CLOTHING

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

J.Y. & G.W. JOHNSON

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

KINGSBOURNE HOUSE,
229-231 HIGH HOLBORN,
LONDON WC1V 7DP

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

976001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / year)
GB	9715596.4	24 JULY 1997

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day / month / year)
-------------------------------	--

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description	4
Claim(s)	2
Abstract	1
Drawing(s)	3 <i>X 3</i>

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) 1

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77) 1

Any other documents
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *JY & GW Johnson* Date 15.1.98.

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mr. William Hanson
0171 405 0356

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

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Statement of inventorship and of
right to grant of a patent

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

WBH

2. Patent application number
(if you know it)

15 JAN 1998

9800856.8

3. Full name of the or of each applicant

GENIE TOYS PLC

4. Title of the invention

DOLL'S CLOTHING

5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right
from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent

GENIE TOYS PLC was the employer of the inventors at the time of their making the invention and derives its right as aforesaid by virtue of Section 39 (1) of the Patents Act 1977.

6. How many, if any, additional Patents Forms
7/77 are attached to this form?

(see note (c))

7.

I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on any extra copies of this form) is/are the inventor(s) of the invention which the above patent application relates to.

Signature

JY & GW Johnson

Date 15.1.98.

8. Name and daytime telephone number of
person to contact in the United KingdomMr William Hanson
0171 405 0356

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505.
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- If there are more than three inventors, please write the names and addresses of the other inventors on the back of another Patents Form 7/77 and attach it to this form.
- When an application does not declare any priority, or declares priority from an earlier UK application, you must provide enough copies of this form so that the Patent Office can send one to each inventor who is not an applicant.
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.

Enter the full names, addresses and postcodes of the inventors in the boxes and underline the surnames

Casey William NORMAN
97 Earls Court Road,
London W8 6QH

Patents ADP number (if you know it): 7360761001

Torquil Patrick Alexander NORMAN
62 Gloucester Crescent,
London NW1 7EG

Patents ADP number (if you know it): 7360779001

Reminder

Have you signed the form?

Patents ADP number (if you know it):

DOLL'S CLOTHING

The present invention relates to a doll's garment, a method for the manufacture thereof and to a set comprising a doll and at least one garment therefor.

5 Traditionally, doll's clothes are stitched from fabric, but this is impracticable for making clothes for dolls smaller than about 8cm in height, due to the difficulty experienced in forming the stitches.

10 Various proposals have therefore been advanced for making articles simulating doll's clothing from alternative materials. For example, US-A-4414774 describes fabricating such articles from plastics materials. The articles are said to be "semi-rigid or flexible" but in practice their degree of rigidity is such that they lack realism and appear 15 bulky, cannot be fitted or removed in a life-like manner and are restricted to dolls of a particular shape. In addition, once the doll is clothed, its limbs cannot be moved so that the articles are unsuitable for dolls with articulated limbs.

20 In order to overcome at least some of these disadvantages, from a first aspect, the present invention provides a doll's garment made from an elastomeric material or rubber.

25 The material may in particular be selected from poly (vinyl chloride) (PVC), ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer (EVA), any of the polymers sold under the trade mark "Kraton" by Shell Chemical Co (such as (optionally hydrogenated) styrene-butadiene-styrene, styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-diene, styrene-isoprene and styrene-30 butadiene block copolymers, styrene-ethylene-butylene block copolymer containing mineral oil, branched styrene copolymer, styrene-butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene triblock rubber, styrene-isoprene-styrene linear block

polymer, styrene-butadiene radial block copolymer, butadiene-styrene copolymer rubber, or synthetic rubber) and low density polyethylene (LDP). Preferably, the average modulus of elasticity of the material is less than 1 MNm⁻².
5 More preferably, the 100% modulus of elasticity, measured at a standard test speed of 500mm/min, is between 120 and 350 kNm⁻², and still more preferably between 240 and 280 kNm⁻². The 300% modulus of elasticity may lie between 440 and 490 kNm⁻². Such values provide a material from which garments
10 with sufficient realism can be moulded, whilst avoiding increased difficulty in moulding detail and in removal of the moulded garments from the mould which the inventors have found to occur with highly elastic polymers.

Advantageously, the wall thickness of the garment is
15 from 1 to 3mm.

From a second aspect, the present invention provides a method of manufacturing a doll's garment, comprising moulding an elastomeric material or rubber. Preferably, the garment is injection moulded, but it may alternatively be dip moulded. The material may in particular be selected
20 from those listed above.

From a third aspect, the invention provides a play set comprising a doll having articulated limbs and at least one garment for the doll, the or each garment being made from
25 an elastomeric material or rubber.

The doll is preferably articulated at the shoulders and hips and may additionally be articulated at the elbows and/or the knees. The doll may be less than 8cm in height and in a particular embodiment, the doll is approximately
30 4cm in height.

The invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figures 1a to 1g show doll's garments according to embodiments of the invention;

Figures 2a to 2f show a doll according to an embodiment of the invention in various different positions; and

5 Figures 3a to 3f show the doll of Figures 2a to 2f dressed in the garments of Figures 1a to 1f respectively.

Figures 1a to 1g show various injection-moulded garments for a doll approximately 4cm in height. More specifically, Figure 1a shows a dress, Figure 1b a pair of 10 dungarees, Figure 1c a gown, Figure 1d a jacket and skirt, Figure 1e a vest and skirt, Figure 1f a jacket and a pair of slacks and Figure 1g a hat and coat. The garments are moulded from elastomeric materials or rubber and are therefore noticeably flexible and elastic, which provides a 15 high degree of realism as compared with prior art garment-simulating articles. The realism is further enhanced by decorating the garment using paint, varnish, glitter etc. Additionally details such as belts, buttons, and collars are provided by the moulding process. In a particular example, 20 the garments are moulded from clear Kraton and painted with a paint of which the modulus of elasticity is compatible with that of the Kraton.

Figures 2a to 2f show a three-dimensional doll which is approximately 4cm in height. The doll is assembled from 25 injection-moulded plastics components and is articulated at the shoulders, hips and knees.

Figures 3a to 3f show the doll of Figures 2a to 2f after fitting of the garments shown in Figures 1a to 1f respectively. Due to their elasticity, the garments can be 30 fitted in a life-like way, i.e., jackets are donned "arms first" and dresses, trousers and skirts are stepped into. However, upper garments may more easily be donned over the feet due to the diameter of the doll's head and the usual

positioning of the arms. Once clothed, the doll's limbs can still be moved. The garments are easily interchanged, even by younger children. One garment can be donned over another, e.g. a jacket over a dress.

5 Whilst particular embodiments have been described, the invention is not limited thereto. For example, dolls according to the invention can comprise male figures or figurines and non-human figures as well as female dolls. The garments can include suits, shirts, coats, shorts, 10 cloaks, capes, uniforms, hats, shoes, helmets, armour and scarfs. In addition, the term "garment" as used in this specification should be understood to include any flexible article which can be fitted to the external surface of a doll, including second skins, outfits resembling other 15 animals or creatures and moulded surfaces resembling rock, flames, bones or the like.

Whilst the invention is particularly apt for miniature dolls, it is applicable to dolls of any shape and size.

CLAIMS

1. A doll's garment made from an elastomeric material or rubber.

2. A doll's garment according to claim 1, made from 5 a material selected from poly (vinyl chloride), ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, any of the polymers sold under the trade mark "Kraton", and low density polyethylene.

3. A doll's garment according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the average modulus of elasticity of the material is 10 less than 1MNm^{-2} .

4. A doll's garment according to claim 3, wherein the 100% modulus of elasticity of the material is between 120 and 350 kNm^{-2} .

5. A doll's garment according to claim 4, wherein the 15 100% modulus of elasticity is between 240 and 280 kNm^{-2} .

6. A doll's garment according to claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein the 300% modulus of elasticity of the material is between 440 and 490 kNm^{-2} .

7. A doll's garment according to any proceeding claim 20 which has been decorated with paint or varnish.

8. A doll's garment according to any proceeding claim, comprising at least one integrally moulded detail such as a belt, button or collar.

9. A doll's garment substantially as described herein 25 with reference to any one of Figures 1a to 1g of the accompanying drawings.

10. A method of manufacturing a doll's garment according to any preceding claim, comprising moulding the

garment from an elastomeric material or rubber.

11. A method according to claim 10, comprising injection moulding the garment.

12. A set comprising a doll having articulated limbs 5 and at least one garment therefor according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

13. A set according to claim 12, wherein the doll is articulated at the shoulders and hips.

14. A set according to claim 13, wherein the doll is 10 additionally articulated at the elbows and/or knees.

15. A set according to claim 12, 13 or 14 wherein the doll is less than 8 cm in height.

16. A set according to claim 15 wherein the doll is approximately 4 cm in height.

15 17. A set comprising a doll and at least one garment therefor, substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

ABSTRACT
DOLL'S CLOTHING

A doll's garment is moulded from an elastomeric material or rubber, to give greater realism. A set 5 comprising a miniature doll with articulated limbs and at least one garment therefor is also provided.

(Figs 3a-3f)

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Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b



Fig. 1c

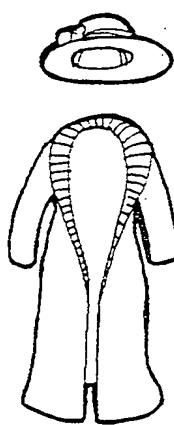


Fig. 1g

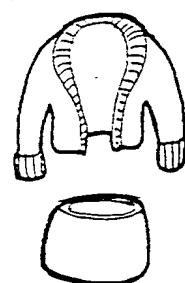


Fig. 1d

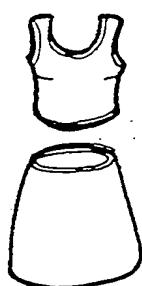


Fig. 1e

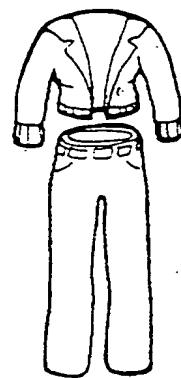


Fig. 1f

INFOGRAPHIC
DATA
VISUALIZATION

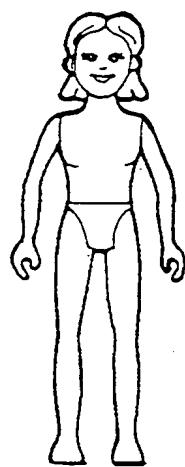


Fig. 2a

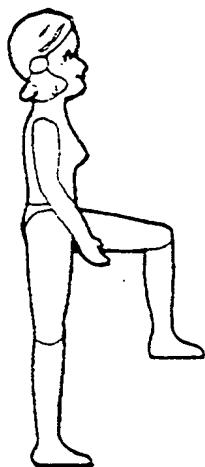


Fig. 2b



Fig. 2c

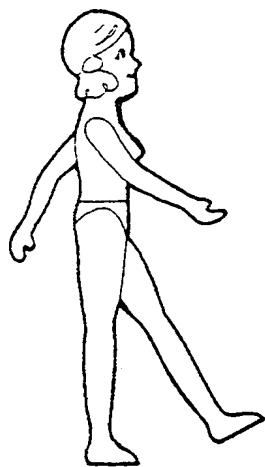


Fig. 2d

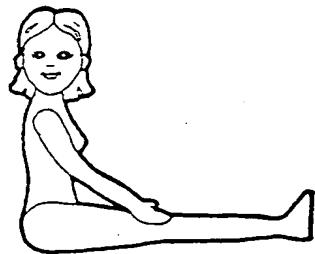


Fig. 2e

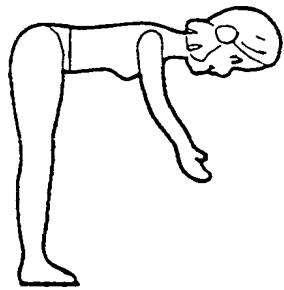


Fig. 2f

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3/3

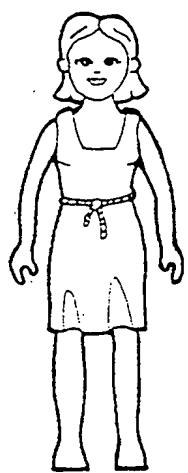


Fig. 3a

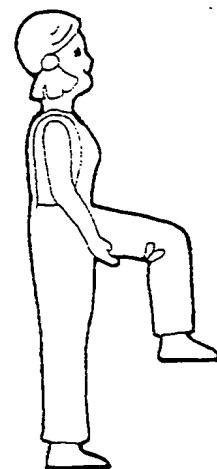


Fig. 3b



Fig. 3c

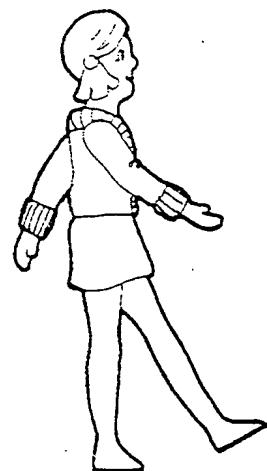


Fig. 3d

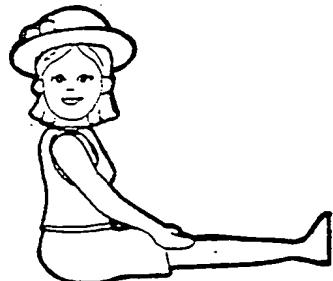


Fig. 3e

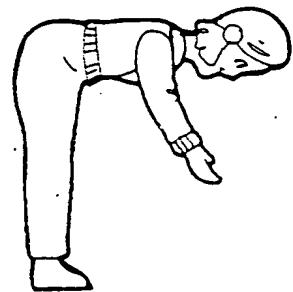


Fig. 3f

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